

Spring Creek Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
0	1,440	1,440 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
10	0	10 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
10	1,440	1,450
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Spring Creek Canyon WSA (UT-040-148)		4,433

About 1,440 acres within the three Spring Creek Canyon inventory units have wilderness characteristics. The two state section units (Units 1 and 2) are natural and have solitude and primitive recreation opportunities similar to those found within the contiguous Spring Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Unit 3 (10 acres) is separated from the WSA by a road and does not satisfy the size criteria for wilderness or further inventory.

The Spring Creek Canyon WSA is contiguous to the Kolob Unit of Zion National Park, an area administratively endorsed for wilderness by the National Park Service (NPS). Like the nearby NPS lands, much of Units 1 and 2 are composed of a heavy piñon and juniper woodland through which grey and red-rock cliffs protrude. Landscapes within the inventory units are a natural extension of the terrain found within the WSA and Zion National Park.

Unit Description

The units are located in the southeast corner of Iron County about one mile east of the town of Kanarrville. The units' topography is dominated by the 2,000-foot rise of the sheer Hurricane Cliffs. Kanarra Creek Canyon slices through Unit 1, and Spring Creek Canyon cuts through the southwest corner of Unit 2.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Units 1 and 2 appear natural, although some surface disturbance has occurred within Unit 1, primarily on the western boundary. This disturbance consists of a developed pipeline and a 0.2 mile maintenance road within Kanarra Creek Canyon leading to a fenced enclosure supplying water to Kanarrville. This road, pipeline, and fenced enclosure have been cherry-stemmed from the unit. In addition, an insignificant 0.4-mile vehicle way is located in the southeast corner of Unit 1.

Within Unit 2 there is surface disturbance caused by off-highway vehicle travel and a campsite along a 0.6 mile vehicle way in Spring Creek Canyon; this route leads to a pack trail and continues up the canyon. Additionally, about 0.8 mile of the Red Rock pack trail crosses Unit 2. However, these disturbances are substantially unnoticeable.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The contiguous Spring Creek Canyon WSA is extremely rugged and has excellent topographic screening. These WSA terrain attributes extend into the area encompassed by the inventory units. Units 1 and 2 provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, primarily within the Kanarra Creek and Spring Creek Canyons and their steep tributary drainages. Piñon and juniper woodlands provide screening on the ridges.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Units 1 and 2 provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, scenic and wildlife photography, and geologic study. Two pack trails cross Unit 2. Impressive views of the Kolob Unit of Zion National Park, Cedar Valley, and the Escalante Desert can be enjoyed from the ridge tops. The segments of the Kanarra Creek and Spring Creek Canyons contained within these units contribute to outstanding hiking, exploring, and back-packing opportunities, both within the units and in the WSA.

Supplemental Values

The units contain two endangered animal species, the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Mountain lions, a wildlife species commonly associated with wilderness, are also found within the units. The units are within a vegetative transition zone where the upper elevations contain Douglas fir and ponderosa pine, while the middle to lower elevations contain piñon and juniper woodland, Gamble's oak, mountain mahogany, and quaking aspen. The red sandstone cliff walls of the main canyons and their tributaries are reminiscent of those found within the Kolob Unit of Zion National Park.



BLM photo

SPRING CREEK CANYON—This view into the interior of Unit 2 highlights the area's rugged terrain.

Spring Creek Canyon

